



Making Christ Available to All..
by Rejoicing, Renewing and
Reaching Out

Herald of Peace



Peace Lutheran Church,
1301 Ave. D, Billings, MT 59102

(406) 252-5504
peacelutheranbillings.com

Leadership Directory

Pastor: **Rev. Seth Rumage**

pastorrumage@gmail.com

Office 406-252-5504 Cell 406-298-2672

Administrative Assistant: **Kim Braaton**

peaceoffice1301@gmail.com

Office 406-252-5504

Church Council

President: Weyland Zeller

Vice President: Holly Suek

Secretary: Holli Miller

Treasurer: Steve Frank

Bob Bakko- dr.bobbakkolcpc@gmail.com

Mike Brown- michaelgbrown187@gmail.com

Laurel Collier- lollyshong@gmail.com

Deanna Eggum- deannaeggum@gmail.com

Steve Frank- frankystorm01@msn.com

Holli Miller- h.miller1@bresnan.net

Luke Morton-Yates- lukemorton303@gmail.com

Holli Suek- hollybehlike@gmail.com

Michelle Stockton- 74mmbbs@gmail.com

Weyland Zeller- weyland.zeller@gmail.com

Peace Office Hours

See Schedule on page 4
Call Ahead Before Stopping By

Weekly Worship Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 pm
In-Person and on Facebook

Sunday: 10:00 am
In-Person and on Facebook

Sunday: 11:00 am, 5:30 pm
Community Channel 7



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

It's natural from time to time to feel despair. This is especially true when we look around us at a world that feels like it is broken beyond repair. There have been a few recent events in Billings and beyond that have brought about despair in our community. Unfortunately, in the coming months and years, there will likely be more. This is also true in our families, at our places of work, even in this and other worship communities. It seems that fractured relationships and realities make it so lament, despair, sadness, suffering, and pain are never far away from us.

With this being the case, it is also natural for us to ask what we do about this predicament we find ourselves in. If suffering is part of life (which sadly it is), how do we as people of God deal with this undesirable aspect of our existence?

First, it is important to acknowledge the presence of suffering without minimizing it or overemphasizing it. It can be easy, as a defense mechanism, to deny our own or others' suffering, with platitudes and simple solutions, by assigning blame or focusing on false positivity. It is just as easy at times to become so enraptured by suffering that we fall into utter despair. The difficult thing is to find a solid middle, in which we can lament honestly, together and individually, the situation before us.

Second, specifically as people of faith, it is important to remember that Jesus has gone before us into suffering and even to death. We believe in a God who decided to enter into human existence and experience and take on all that it means to be human. On the lesser end of suffering, Jesus had tummy troubles and headaches. He felt the aches and pains of being a manual laborer in a world before air conditioning and modern medicine.

cont'd on page 4

Prayer Concerns of those we pray for

For the Church

Yehiel Curry - Presiding Bishop, WLCA
Ben Quanbeck - Montana Synod Bishop

For the World

Peace in Ukraine
Victims of violence and war in Israel and Gaza
All those affected by war in Iran and neighboring countries
Peace in the Middle East
Peace in Venezuela
Peace in the United States
President Donald Trump and officials at all levels of government

For illness or injuries of members

Gertie Gross	John & Rosanne Modde
Jim & Geri Frasch	Hank Tungstall
Darlene Thompson	Lawanda Sherseth
Eva Wilker	Susan Andersen
Gayle Bummer	Kathi & Erik Aslakson
John Baber	Kolter Olmstead
Evie Tenold	Linda Strosky
Rhonda Sappington	

For illness or injuries of family and friends

Pam – Lois Gorseth's friend, cancer treatment
Kelly Miller – Pastor Kim Wilker's daughter, cancer
Gary Boje – Darlene Thompson's brother, recovery
Denise – Bonnie Hovik Clausen's daughter in law
Garry Fink – cancer treatment
Josh Wilker – son of Kim & Terri, reentry after prison
Drew Echales – friend of the Rumage family, medical diagnosis
Rena Killmer—Marlin & Muriel Overstreet's daughter, cancer
Tommy Murphy—Nephew of Susan Andersen, Medical Reasons
Carol and Gary - siblings of Lois Gorseth - recurring cancer
Adrian Mantei - Connie's son, recovering after hospitalization
Patty- Susan Finn's Sister-in-law, lymphoma
Eddie - Stacey Bowlds' step-father - Cancer treatment
Darrell - friend of Laurie Harrtford, rare lung cancer
Diane - Friend of Wendy Goodheart - diagnosed with breast cancer
Jim Berve - Cancer treatment
Mark - John Modde's son-in-law, kidney cancer
Dennis Haste - Mel Sider's dad, prostate cancer
Mary - Pastor Seth's grandmother, recovery after fall

For those who are grieving

The Ghekiere family as they grieve the tragedy of death and a house fire.

Prayer Concerns is a published list of those on the prayer chain, who have given permission to publish their names. If you are interested in praying for these, as well as others, please join the prayer chain. They have leaders who call or email. Please call Lone Bloom at 406-671-4030



PEOPLE OF PEACE

As Peace grows, we want to help people get to know each other. Whether you just joined the church or have been worshipping here for years, we can all learn more about who we are!

Scan the QR Code to fill in the survey! For those who would like to participate, but do not use technology, please reach out to the church office, to Joan Brown, or to Holli Miller to let us know that you would like to be interviewed.



Completed profiles will be shared in each midweek newsletter, and will be posted on the wall in the upstairs hallway. Thank you to everyone who has responded! We look forward to hearing from more of you soon!

My Mom was a really good “everyday” cook (my brothers used to fight over her goulash) and a really good “special days” cook (usually something Danish like frikadeller, abelskiver, dumpling soup, duck with prunes). You get the idea. We liked her cooking a lot!

One summer, when I was about 10, Pella Lutheran (in Sidney, MT where my dad was pastor) invited kids from inner city Chicago to come and visit us in Sidney. We had a girl, about my age, stay with us for a few weeks.

I don’t remember her name, but I remember the lesson I learned from Mom. Every meal this gal only ate canned beef stew. My brothers and I were never given a second option for dinner, so one day I asked Mom, “what’s the deal with her getting canned beef stew every meal and she doesn’t have to eat what you cook?”.

Mom gave me a wise answer. She said, “She grew up in a house where most meals were canned beef stew. That’s what she is used to. She’s our guest and welcome to eat what I serve, but she’ll always know there’s a can of beef stew that she can have too”.

Serving meals for Family Promise can be challenging. We always get a list of allergies, but other than that, it can be hard to know what to serve, what people might like, what they are used to eating. I have put together some ideas for dinners.

Taco Bar ~ soft shells, seasoned beef or chicken, shredded cheese, lettuce, sour cream for kids can build their own tacos.

Pasta Bakes or a Pasta Bar ~ last time our guests were here, they had chicken Alfredo or spaghetti with bread. It was a hit! Macaroni and cheese is good too. Add some veggies and it’s a meal!

Sloppy Joes ~ serve with buns and chips. Chicken salad sandwiches have been served and people liked them. Build a ham sandwich with cheese, mayo, tomatoes, lettuce! Or maybe grilled cheese and tomato soup.

Pulled Pork or Chicken ~ great for sliders with chips and some fruit.

Breakfast for dinner (we’ve had that request several times!)

Some people buy fried chicken and the fixin’s. Or they buy pizza and salad.

Debbie and I try to help people who volunteer to cook for our families by letting you know some of the things they have eaten during the week. Or we ask them what they would like. Volunteers need to be at church by 5:30 to let people in, they eat around 6 (people’s schedules vary, we’ll let you know). You stay until 8 when the overnight person comes. Any leftovers can be kept in the frig ~ our guests can take them for lunches.

We hope you will look at our sign-up board in the narthex for our families coming to Peace the week of SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 4. Maybe you’ll sign up to spend the night, help with set up and tear down, laundry or sign up to serve a meal to our families.

We have some great cooks at Peace. Cook what you like for our guests ~ you can always bring a can of beef stew just in case!

Peace Family Promise Coordinators,

Debbie Smith and Jan Bakko



On the greater side of the spectrum, we experience our Lord and Savior as one who was unfairly beaten, tortured, and killed by the very humans he came to save. The God we worship was willing to become human and experience the pain and suffering of the crucifixion. There is no place in this world that God is unwilling and unable to go, including but not limited to the Valley of the Shadow of Death. Third, even more specifically as Christians, we are resurrection people. This suffering, death, and despair Christ experienced as a human are not the final say in this world. As Isaiah tells us, death has been swallowed up in the life which Christ brings from death. We can be assured that the joys of life, the gifts of God such as relationships, love, hope, grace, mercy, and peace, are all secure in Jesus' resurrection. This new life, this hope in the resurrection strengthens us to weather the storms of life, this everpresent suffering.

This is not to say all suffering is redemptive or useful. There are terrible things that happen for no apparent reason. There are ways we convince ourselves that bad things happen so that good can come from them. That is a topic for another day.

But for now, remember that Christ is with you in all things and his love sustains you through every experience in your life.

Peace,
Pastor Seth

Peace Staff Weekly Office Hours

Fall 2026

Staff Key=

Pastor Seth

Kim Braaton

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 AM					
9:00 AM					
9:30 AM					
10:00 AM					
10:30 AM					
11:00 AM					
11:30 AM					
12:00 PM					
12:30 PM					
1:00 PM					
1:30 PM					
2:00 PM					
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3:00 PM					
3:30 PM					
4:00 PM					
4:30 PM					
5:00 PM					
5:30 PM					

Peace Quilters News!

The quilters at Peace meet each Wednesday morning, 9:00 a.m. to noon, in the basement at Peace. If you are interested in quilting or learning how to tie quilts, come and join us. We take a break for coffee and a visit around 10:30. The quilts you have seen displayed in the basement reception hall are examples of our handiwork. This past year we made 183 quilts which you saw displayed on the church pews at the beginning of May. Three have been given to community causes and 180 have just been sent to Lutheran World Relief for distribution around the world where there is a need.

This is an important ministry the Members at Peace are sharing with the greater community.



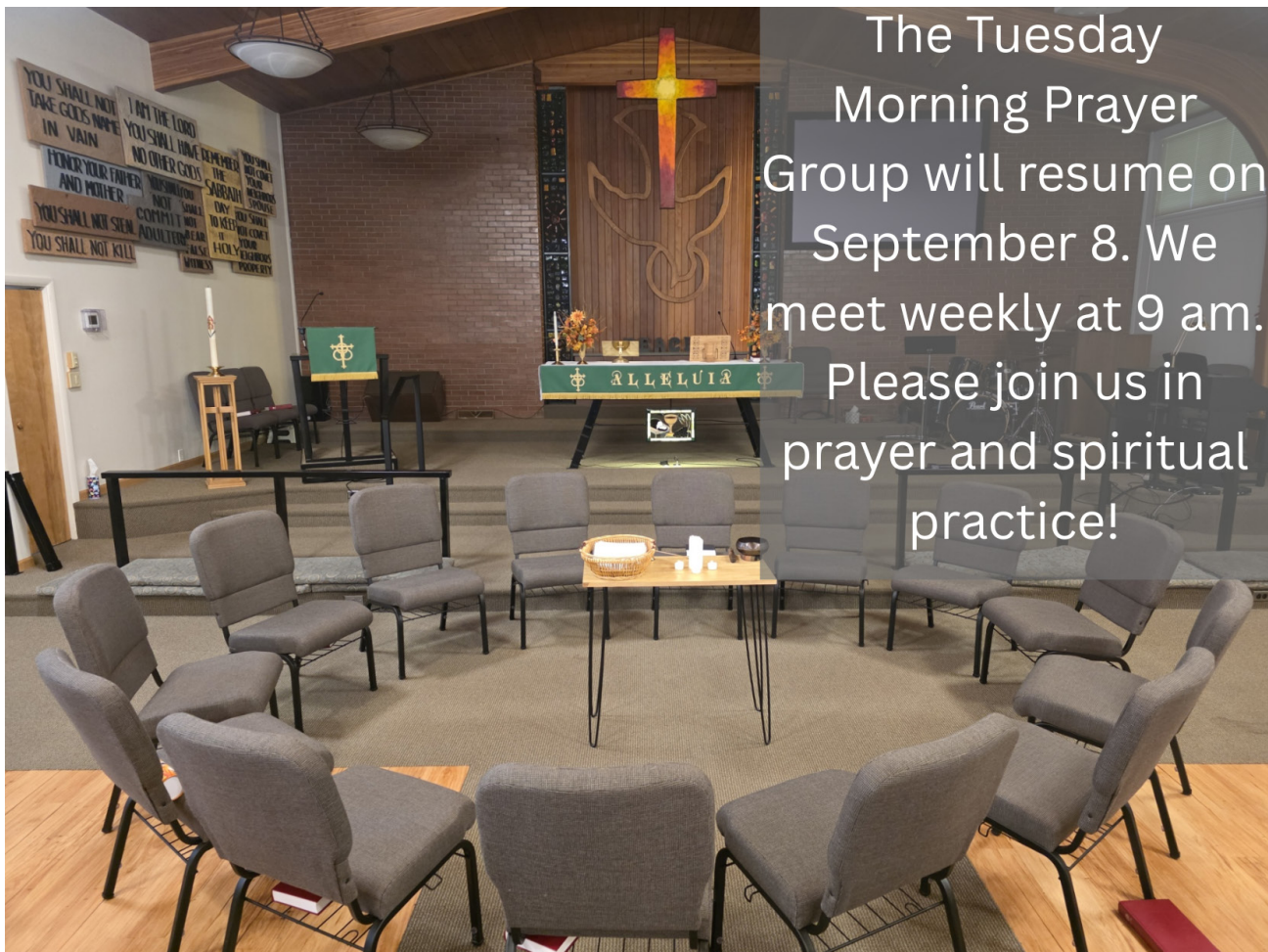
Betty Stratton	September 1
Holly Suek	September 2
Amelia Sider	September 3
Ron Amunrud	September 3
Jeff Murray	September 12
Mary Ann Conboy	September 21
Leah Bick	September 22
Evie Tenold	September 26
Ione Bloom	September 27
Laurie Woods	September 29
Bowden Kintzing	September 30

JOIN
Bell Choir

Practice Starts September 9th at 5:30 PM

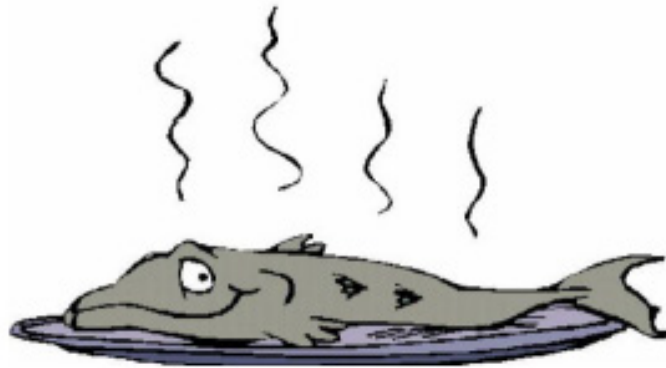
**NEW and EXPERIENCED
RINGERS are welcome!**

**Please call Julie Draeger if you are
interested. 496-471-3932**



The Tuesday
Morning Prayer
Group will resume on
September 8. We
meet weekly at 9 am.
Please join us in
prayer and spiritual
practice!

SAVE THE DATE



LUTEFISK DINNER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8th AT 4:00 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

Volunteers are needed to help set up, food preparation, and cleanup.

Contact Holli Miller: 406-672-9916 or h.miller1@bresnan.net





facebook

Find Peace Lutheran on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/PeaceLutheranBillings>

Watch worship live or on your own time. Keep up-to-date with goings on at church. Even send a message to chat with Pastor Seth!

Also check out our website at <https://www.peacelutheranbillings.com/> Find monthly newsletters and calendars, information about worship, food pantry, and youth ministries!

Peace Lutheran Financial Update

	Income	Expenses	Difference
July 2026	\$12,375.77	\$15,766.22	-3,390.45
2026 Year-To-Date	\$134,473.03	\$132,968.88	1,504.15

July was by far our lowest month of giving for 2026. It was also our lowest giving July since 2019. It's hard to know at this moment whether this will be the beginning of a trend of lower giving or if this is just a one-off lower giving month. A few things on the positive side is that even after a lower month of giving, we are still in the black year-to-date, and the fact that July and August are usually lower giving months due to people traveling during summer months. Compared to last year, our year-to-date giving is right on track.

You have been extremely generous throughout this year so far, as we have been getting the Godly Play program off the ground, as the food pantry has been seeing continually high numbers of patrons receiving food, as we have helped fund various programs and projects with our partner organizations such as Family Promise Yellowstone Valley, Nations to Neighbors Montana, the Montana Veterans Meet Locker, the United Way of Yellowstone Valley, and others. Thank you for your continued generosity in giving to Peace and the organizations you support! It is only by your financial contributions and volunteer efforts that we are able to do the ministry God has called us to do in this time and in this place.



Do you want to support Peace Electronically? Follow this QR Code to be taken to our giving portal!

Saturday, September 5th & Sunday, September 6th, 2026

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

Ezekiel 33:7-11, Psalm 119:33-40, Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20

Saturday, September 12th & Sunday, September 13th, 2026

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

Genesis 50:15-21, Psalm 103:8-13, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35

Saturday, September 19th & Sunday, September 20th, 2026

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

Jonah 3:10-4:11, Psalm 145:1-8, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16

Saturday, September 26th & Sunday, September 27th, 2026

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32, Psalm 25:1-9, Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32

September

2026

Godly Play

Saturday, 09/05

**Books of
the Bible**

5pm-6:15pm



Sunday, 09/13

**Books of
the Bible**

10am- 11:15am

Saturday, 09/19

Creation

5pm-6:15pm



Sunday, 09/27

Creation

10am- 11:15am

Questions?

Peacelcyouth@gmail.com



Women of the ELCA Circles:

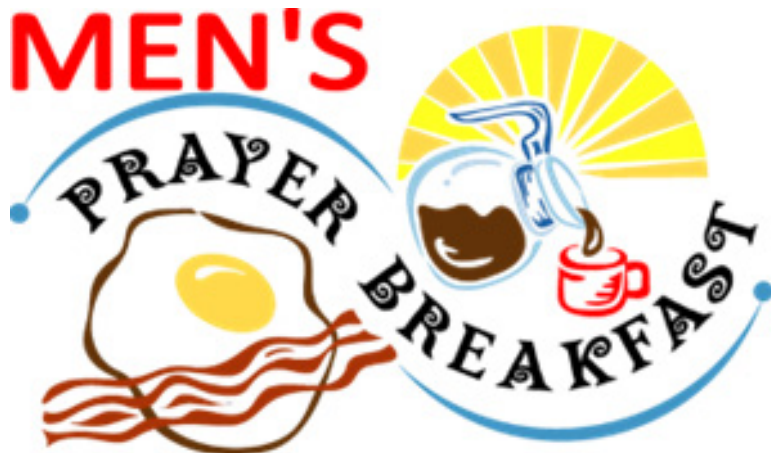
Everyone is welcome!

Ruth Circle

*Meets second Tuesday at 11:30 a.m.
Pizza Hut 2530 King Ave W*

Katie Circle

*Meets second Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
in the Fellowship Hall*



Men's Breakfast and Bible Study meets

Wednesdays at 6:30 am in the
Fellowship Hall.

New-comers and one-timers are
always welcome.

Bring yourself and your appetite—
food and Bible study resources will be
provided!

Delegates to Ministries

Christikon

Katrina Rumage
Kristi Bummer
Ruby Olmstead

Endowment Trustees

Joan Brown
Kristi Bummer
Jeff Murray
Greg Popp
Melissa Sider

Lutheran Center

Jeff Murray
Pastor Seth Rumage*

Shepherd Cluster

Dave Draeger
Jluie Draeger

St. John's Ministries

Jerilyn Dukart
Bob Peterson

Synod Assembly Delegates

Ann Barsness
Julie Draeger

† Denotes Committee Chair

*Denotes Council Member

September Serving Comm.

Kathy Simek, chair
George Simek
Kim & Terri Wilker
Hannah & Tony Pecarina
Matt & Holly Suek
Nancy & Louis Taylor
Juanita & Robert Snyder

Scholarship

Wendy Goodheart
Holli Miller†*
Melissa Sider
Michelle Stockton

Worship

Ann Barsness
Julie Draeger
Wendy Goodheart
Michelle Stockton*

Congregational Committees

Abundant Life

Mike Brown*
Jeff Murray
Bob Peterson†
Danny Quanbeck
Rhonda Sappington

Congregational Life

Joan Brown
Laurel Collier*
Molly Johnson
Holli Miller†*
Jeff Murray
Deb Sider
Melissa Sider
Michelle Stockton*

Education/Youth & Family

Jan Bakko
Bethany Fuqua
Julie Morton-Yates
Ruby Olmstead
Jody Pierce
Katrina Rumage†
Melissa Sider†
Holly Suek*

Mission & Service

Ann Barsness
Deanna Eggum*
Paula Jackson
Rick & Barb Olson
Linda Strosky
Weyland Zeller†*

Mutual Ministry

Bob Bakko*
Ann Barsness
Bob Peterson
Jody Pierce
Chuck Sider

Nominating

Lois Gorseth
Rhonda Sappington
Melissa Sider
(Council Appointed in November)
(Council Appointed in November)

Personnel

Bob Bakko *
Melissa Sider

Property

Mike Brown*
Deanna Eggum*
Jeff Murray
Paul Strosky
Weyland Zeller *

UCM



ANNUAL FUNDRAISER DINNER

**OCTOBER 6
5:30PM**

**MSUB STUDENT UNION
GLACIER ROOM**

Dinner and fellowship with UCM
Students

Tickets are \$50.

Be a Sponsor:

Student Dinner Ticket - \$50

Blue Sponsor - Table of 6 - \$400

Gold Sponsor - Table of 8 - \$500

During the evening help to raise
funds to support our ministry at
MSUB through a Basket Raffle
and Live auction.

1500 University Dr
ucm-msub.org
406-647-2567

Scan to Register



59 Years and Growing Strong!



Keynote:
Rev. Ben Quanbeck, Bishop
Montana Synod ELCA

9/11

Remembrance
SPAGHETTI
DINNER

FREE Spaghetti Dinner for ALL
First Responders, Veterans, and
their Families

9/11/2026
Faith E Church
3145 Sweetwater Dr.
Billings, MT
4pm-7pm

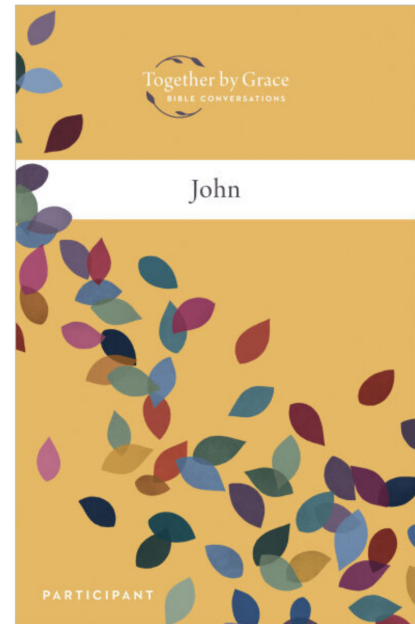


LUTHERAN STUDY BIBLE

Join us in worship on Sunday, September 6 for a special Bible Presentation and Blessing for the kids beginning Confirmation this fall.

Youth beginning classes this fall include Mark Donovan, Finley Fuqua, Raina Fuqua, Sage Fuqua, Amelia Sider, and Kinsley Willis!

New Revised Standard Version
Updated Edition



Thursday Morning Bible Study Fall 2026
The Thursday Morning Bible Study will begin a series on the Gospel of John on September 3. Books have been ordered for the people who have signed up. If you have not signed up, but would like to participate, please contact pastor Seth.



SEPTEMBER AWAY DATES

Pastor Seth will be in an all-day conference call on Friday September 4.

Pastor Seth will also be in Great Falls September 17-19 for a Montana Synod Hunger Team Retreat.

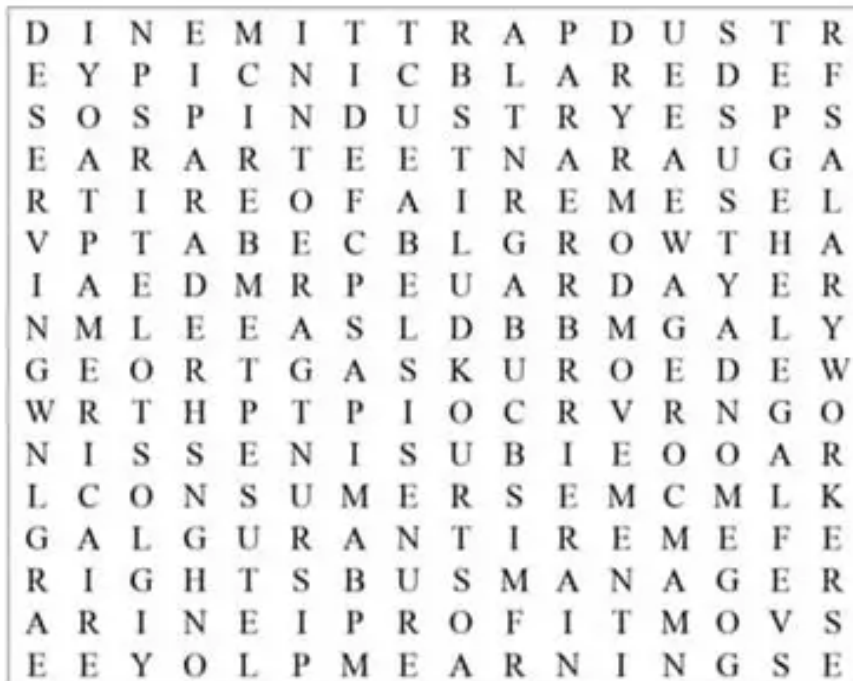
Labor Day is often associated with backyard barbecues and the unofficial end of summer, but its origins are rooted in the American labor movement. The holiday grew out of a massive workers' parade held in New York City on September 5, 1882, where thousands of laborers marched to demand recognition, fair wages, and better working conditions. Interestingly, historians still debate whether labor leader Peter J. McGuire or union organizer Matthew Maguire first proposed the holiday. One little-known fact is that the first Labor Day celebration almost failed because many marchers arrived late and the parade struggled to get started, yet it ultimately drew between 10,000 and 20,000 participants. After the march, workers and their families gathered for picnics, speeches, music, and refreshments, establishing traditions that continue today. Modern Labor Day customs, including parades, community events, family cookouts, and outdoor gatherings, can be traced directly to those early celebrations honoring the contributions of working people to the nation's growth and prosperity



**The Office will
be closed
Monday,
September 7th.**

Find the words listed. Words may appear forward, backward, up, down or diagonal. Words may overlap and cross each other. When you have found a word, be sure to circle it and cross it off the list.

Labor Day Word Search



AMERICA
BOSS
BUSINESS
CONSUMERS
DEREGULATE
DESERVING
EARNINGS
EMPLOYEE
FAIR
FEDERAL

GROWTH
GUARANTEE
INDUSTRY
LABOR
LEGAL
MANAGER
MERIT
MONDAY
MONEY
MOVEMENT

PARADE
PART TIME
PICNIC
PROCEDURE
PROFIT
RIGHTS
SALARY
SEPTEMBER
WAGE
WORKERS

2026 SEPTEMBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	01	02	03	04	05
10:00a Worship Service with Holy Communion [In-Person and Online] 11:30a Confirmation 1:30p Al Anon		9:00a Prayer Group (sanctuary)	6:30a Men's Breakfast 9:00a Peace Quilters	10a-12p Food Pantry 12:00p OA Meeting 9:00a Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	12:00p Al-Anon Meeting 2-4p Food Pantry	5:00p Worship Service with Holy Communion [In-Person and Online] 5:15p Godly Play
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
10:00a Worship Service with Holy Communion [In-Person and Online] 11:30a Confirmation 1:30p Al Anon	LABOR DAY! OFFICE CLOSED. NO FOOD PANTRY 5:30p OA meeting <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	9:00a Prayer Group (sanctuary)	6:30a Men's Breakfast 9:00a Peace Quilters	10a-12p Food Pantry 12:00p OA Meeting 9:00a Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	12:00p Al-Anon Meeting 2-4p Food Pantry	5:00p Worship Service with Holy Communion [In-Person and Online]
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10:00a Worship Service with Holy Communion [In-Person and Online] 10:15a Godly Play 11:30a Confirmation 1:30p Al Anon	1-3p Food Pantry 5:30p OA meeting <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	11:30a Ruth Circle (King Ave. Pizza Hut) 9:00a Prayer Group (sanctuary)	6:30a Men's Breakfast 9:00a Peace Quilters	10a-12p Food Pantry 12:00p OA Meeting 9:00a Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	12:00p Al-Anon Meeting 2-4p Food Pantry	5:00p Worship Service with Holy Communion [In-Person and Online] 5:15p Godly Play
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10:00a Worship Service with Holy Communion [In-Person and Online] 11:30a Confirmation 1:30p Al Anon 1:30p-3:00p Confirmation Youth Collective	1-3p Food Pantry 5:30p OA meeting <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	6:30p Church Council 9:00a Prayer Group (sanctuary)	6:30a Men's Breakfast 9:00a Peace Quilters	10a-12p Food Pantry 12:00p OA Meeting 9:00a Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 	12:00p Al-Anon Meeting 2-4p Food Pantry	5:00p Worship Service with Holy Communion [In-Person and Online]
27	28	29	30	01	02	03
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Peace Lutheran Church

Non-Profit Organization

1301 Avenue D

Billings, MT 59102-3196



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

